

Administrator's Update for 8/17/11

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Last week we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Port Charlotte Public Library with a successful event at the library. An estimated 600 people enjoyed music, raffles, shared memories and history. Forty local businesses, non-profits, and authors were spread throughout the library. The Friends of the Library raised \$210 in memberships and \$179 from raffle tickets. A total of twenty-six prizes were donated and raffled. After a cake-cutting ceremony, a visual history of the library was presented using photographs, news clippings, and interviews in a short-film format.

EDO news

Our economic development office gave an update on economic development in Charlotte County to 15 area engineers at the Peace River Engineering Society meeting. Our economic development office (EDO) has reached out to 14 local organizations during this fiscal year in an effort to promote community awareness of how the EDO continues to strengthen its business recruitment and retention toolbox.

Our new EDO director, Tom Patton, started this week. Tom has extensive experience with economic development in Florida at the county level and we look forward to him furthering the EDO's successes.

Perfect score

I'm proud to announce that, for the 10th year in a row, our Charlotte County Fire/EMS department had an outstanding performance and a perfect score in an unannounced State of Florida inspection of our EMS system. The department scored 100% again with no deficiencies. One of the State's comments was that our record keeping is some of the best she ever has seen and "the citizens and visitors of Charlotte County and the State of Florida can be proud of this well run, professional service." This credit goes to the department's training division for their outstanding record keeping and all of the Fire/EMS personnel for keeping the apparatus ready for service as required by the State. Once again, the department is proud of this outstanding accomplishment.

More high marks

Our senior services division completed and submitted its client outcome measures report for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 to the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida. The senior services division exceeded the target goals and met 100% of the goal in the categories for serving adult protective high-risk seniors within 48 hours; and in maintaining or improving a frail senior's environment.

Recycling outreach

Staff from our solid waste division met with several members of the Lemon Bay High School Environmental Club and delivered recycling containers for the school's use. The recycling program was discussed along with the Club's expectations and goals and benefits in order to meet the specifications of the "Dream Machine" grant provided by PEPSICO and Waste Management, Inc., to Charlotte County. Recycling bins were provided for high-volume areas and the environmental club will provide a bi-weekly report on the amount of recyclables captured.

Grant awarded to Tourism

The Florida Sports Foundation recently awarded our Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau with a \$5,000 grant to offset marketing and operational expenses to host the 2012 IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championships. The eight-day event will be held Jan. 8 through 15, 2012, in Charlotte Harbor. The event serves as a qualifier for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. The championships are estimated to attract between 150 and 175 participants from about 20 countries who will be staying in area lodging, dining in local restaurants and taking advantage of the destination's good nature. The projected economic impact of the event on Charlotte County is \$700,000.